

# “Voices of Immigrant Women”

## Technical Description

Data from various studies suggest that changing demographic conditions are a major environmental factor, particularly the interests and expectations of an increasingly culturally diverse population.

The change in immigrant demographics is evident throughout the European Union, and the number of ethno-racial communities is growing. Thinking about integrating and engaging these diverse immigrant groups means devising cultural activities and artistic programs that harness interest in participatory integration activities, such as dancing, playing music, acting and storytelling, all of which could help build relationships among communities.

Many challenges and barriers continue to stand in the way of immigrant integration, a segment of society which is rapidly growing. This project seeks to advance cultural pluralism by means of cultural and artistic activities as well as workshops for professional orientation, building awareness of local resources, social understanding and integration. It seeks to take advantage of the fact that many immigrants come from artisan/craft and art related activities. Their forms of expression and stories (including myths, iconography, references, techniques, etc.) may draw on the rich histories and traditions of their own cultures, not be based on Eurocentric norms.

The process proposed is integrative, combining elements of community engagement with artistic development, organizational change and audience engagement, seeking to underscore the interconnections between various types of activities and collaborations and delivery channels.

## General Objectives:

- engage and provide access to diverse communities for performing arts developed by ethno-racial artists and, through this, build social cohesion amongst diverse communities;
- engage diverse communities regionally and across Spain in the development and staging of performances and artistic works by immigrant artists;
- build the capacities of immigrant organizations in areas related to fundraising, volunteer recruitment/development of immigrant women in particular
- create communities of practice to promote pluralism in the arts
- develop and/or implement evidence-based practices for pluralism in performing arts;
- build audiences through community engagement and other outreach activities to directly and indirectly participate and benefit from this project;
- enhance the capacity of other immigrant organizations and communities to sustain the benefits of the project.
- enhance access to private sector foundations and corporate sponsors interested in the artistic activities of immigrants
- use of digital technology to support these organizations' efforts to sustain the outcomes of this project;

## Technical expectations:

- Use digital technology to create a Website with hypermedia facilities (to support text, images, videos and an animated e-narrative-poem).
- Include a <https://www.wikispaces.com/> open section where participants and project members can include multimedia content.
- Include a data-base of volunteers and organizations interested in working in other prospective projects
- Include a date-base of immigrant women in order to offer their abilities to prospective interested enterprises and partners
- Develop a tracking system for use in audience/volunteer development, marketing, communications and promotional activities.
- Work in collaboration with project coordinators to develop the Website

#### Workload and schedule:

- January-February: Devise the general structure of the Website in HTML5.
- March-April: Work on the technical aspects of the animated e-narrative-poem.
- May-June: Including content on the Website (text to be converted in to hypertext, images and so on)
- July-August: Final revisions, presentation at the ELO 2015 Bergen and other dissemination activities

#### E-narrative poem specifications:

The story of an immigrant woman (a participant in the workshops) with a particularly engaging personality and a concealed talent (a musician, artist, writer, etc.) escaping from a bad situation in his home country (video-footage of the character in her daily life in Spain (at work; in her lodgings, socializing etc) + photographs of her past life in her home country + audio recording of an interview with the character, edited and used as voiceover throughout + a video of a play about an immigrant woman who fights in a duel accompanied by drums + audio recordings of other relevant situations with other workshop participants. The composition seeks to engage the audience into sharing the character's dreams and expectations as well as her worries.

#### Ethical Issues

Formal permissions will be acquired from all relevant individuals – specifically the central subject/character of the documentary and those engaged in other locations featured.

#### Partners:

ACUDEVA <http://www.acudeva.org/>

Instituto de la Mujer –Woman Institute (Spain) <http://www.inmujer.gob.es/>

University of Bergen <http://www.uib.no/>

Universidad Complutense de Madrid <http://www.ucm.es/>

Instituto de Investigaciones feministas de la UCM- Institute of Feminist Research  
<http://www.ucm.es/investigacionesfeministas/>

SIIM Research Program: Studies on Intermediality and Intercultural Relations <http://www.ucm.es/siim/siim-cooperation>

Universidad Francisco de Vitoria <http://www.ufv.es/>

SANSARA S. Coop Mad

Asociación Ameib PACHAMAMA

Fédération Initiatives des femmes Africaines de France et d'Europe

Aspire Education Group Ltd (England)

Red Nosotras en el Mundo- <http://www.rednosotrasenelmundo.org>

Each of these organizations contributes in-kind services in terms of volunteer support, access to facilities for meeting purposes, provision of contacts to networks within educational institutions, and provision of contacts within immigrant communities.

- Each organization will also participate in public and educational forums involving the project
- They also commit to working with immigrant communities to develop the workshops and artistic activities that reflect the story and face of the diverse peoples across Spain
- Workshop sessions focus on pluralism in practice, sharing strategies and approaches, developing a supportive and effective voluntary network, and presenting diverse perspectives to diverse communities.
- Further, the gatherings will provide a diverse range of performances and gallery showings, e.g., music, theatre, dance, various visual arts, multi-media, etc.
- The members will maintain web access and quantitative and qualitative data on this initiative and assess results annually

- create new work using technologies such as i-pad, loop stations for video and/or music, YouTube, voice- and sound-activated computers, while, at the same time, collaborating with immigrant artists locally, provincially, nationally and globally;
- engage with communities and audiences over internet, through skype and other computer-aided methods;
- Research uses of digital technology in the development of the project
- Research the use of social media for community engagement, audience and sponsor development;
- Convening workshops for peer information and education-sharing as well as discussion on joint strategies.

### **Participants:**

Augustine Abila (Director, co-author of “Voices of Immigrant Women”)

Maya Zalbidea (English workshop coordinator, intermediary between Spanish members of the project and the Norwegian partner, organizer of events, translator, co-author of “Voices of Immigrant Women”)

Xiana Sotelo (Spanish workshop coordinator, organizer of events, translator, co-author of “Voices of Immigrant Women”)

Elisabeth Nesheim (Coordinator from University of Bergen).

Asun López-Varela (Web support and Project dissemination)

### **Schedule of activities:1<sup>st</sup> year**

1. October 2014- Kick-off meeting of group members.
2. November 2014-Meetings of the group members with the Director of Instituto de la Mujer, the Institute of Feminist Research Complutense University of Madrid, and other participant organizations,
3. December 2014-Creation and design of teaching materials and lessons plans for workshops.
4. Meetings at the Cultural Centre La Casa Turca (Turkish House Madrid) and other participant organizations.
5. January 2015- Start of workshops and activities (Spanish & English workshops, ICT, dressmaking and cooking) Meetings with social intermediary, Madrid, and other participant organizations.
6. February 2015- Continuation of workshops. Start of Digital project.
7. March 2015- Continuation of workshops and Digital project. Celebration of Women’s Day, Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March. Paraninfo. Facultad de Filología. Univ. Complutense Madrid
8. April 2015- Workshops. Digital project.
9. May 2015- Workshops. Digital project.
10. June 2015- Workshops. Digital project.
11. July 2015- Workshops. Digital project.
12. August 2015-Participation in Electronic Literature Organization Conference. Bergen 2015.
13. September 2015- Elisabeth Nesheim visit to Madrid.  
Presentation of electronic literature work and AIMISOLA project together with project partners in Madrid, Spain.
14. October 2015- Evaluation Reports. Feedback activities
15. Nov-Dec. 2015- Publications and dissemination of results